

SPORT FISHING

Emergency Order

ALASKA DEPARTMENT
OF FISH & GAME

Under Authority of AS 16.05.060

Emergency Order No. 01-LC-R-23-11

Issued at Sitka, Friday, July 29, 2011.

Effective 12:01 A.M. Monday,
Date: August 1, 2011.

Expiration Date: 11:59 P.M. Wednesday,
November 30, 2011 unless superseded by
subsequent emergency order.

EXPLANATION: This emergency order rescinds Emergency Order 1-LC-R-08-11 and modifies lingcod sport fishing seasons, bag and possession limits and, establishes minimum and maximum size limits and annual limits for lingcod in the marine waters of Southeast Alaska.

REGULATION:

This emergency order rescinds Emergency Order 1-LC-R-08-11. The provisions of 5 AAC 47.020.(7), and 5 AAC 47.021.(g)(1)(A) are superseded by this emergency order, which will be in effect from August 1, 2011 to November 30, 2011. Under this emergency order, the following provisions are in effect:

5 AAC 47.020. General provisions for seasons and bag, possession, annual, and size limits for the salt waters of the Southeast Alaska Area.

(7) lingcod:

(A) In the Yakutat Area waters between 139° and 144° W. long., lingcod may be taken from May 16 – November 30 as follows:

- i. Alaska residents: 1 per day, 2 in possession, no size limit;
- ii. nonresidents: 1 per day, 1 in possession, 30 inches or greater in length and less than or equal to 45 inches in length, or 55 inches or greater in length with an annual limit of two lingcod, one of which is 30 to 45 inches in length and one that is 55 inches or greater in length;
- iii. immediately after landing a lingcod a nonresident angler shall record, in ink, all lingcod harvested either on the back of their sport fishing license or on a nontransferable harvest record;
- iv. a sport fishing guide or sport fishing guide crew member working on a charter vessel in the salt waters of Southeast Alaska may not retain lingcod while clients are on board the vessel.

(B) In the waters of northern Southeast Alaska waters north of a line from Wood Point to Beacon Point, continuing to Point Camden to Salt Point Light, west of the longitude of the Cape Decision Light and north of 56° N. lat., and bound to the west by 139° W. long., lingcod may be taken from May 16 – June 30 and from August 1 – November 30 as follows:

- i. Alaska residents: 1 per day, 2 in possession, no size limit;
- ii. nonresidents: 1 per day, 1 in possession, 30 inches or greater in length and less than or equal to 35 inches in length, or 55 inches or greater in length with an annual

limit of two lingcod, one of which is 30 to 35 inches in length and one that is 55 inches or greater in length;

- iii. immediately after landing a lingcod a nonresident angler shall record, in ink, all lingcod harvested either on the back of their sport fishing license or on a nontransferable harvest record;
- iv. a sport fishing guide or sport fishing guide crew member working on a charter vessel in the salt waters of Southeast Alaska may not retain lingcod while clients are on board the vessel.

(C) In waters along the outer coast of Prince of Wales Island south of 56° N. lat., and the waters south of Prince of Wales Island that are east of 137° W. long; lingcod may be taken May 16 – November 30 as follows:

- i. Alaska residents: 1 per day, 2 in possession, no size limit;
- ii. nonresidents: 1 per day, 1 in possession, 30 inches or greater in length and less than or equal to 40 inches in length, or 55 inches or greater in length with an annual limit of two lingcod, one of which is 30 to 40 inches in length and one that is 55 inches or greater in length;
- iii. immediately after landing a lingcod a nonresident angler shall record, in ink, all lingcod harvested either on the back of their sport fishing license or on a nontransferable harvest record;
- iv. a sport fishing guide or sport fishing guide crew member working on a charter vessel in the salt waters of Southeast Alaska may not retain lingcod while clients are on board the vessel.

(D) In the remaining inside waters of Southeast Alaska near Ketchikan, Wrangell, and Petersburg south of a line from Wood Point to Beacon Point, continued to Point Camden to Salt Point Light, east of the longitude of the Cape Decision, lingcod may be taken May 16 – November 30 as follows:

- i. Alaska residents: 1 per day, 2 in possession, no size limit;
- ii. nonresidents: 1 per day, 1 in possession, 30 inches or greater in length and less than or equal 40 inches in length, or 55 inches or greater in length with an annual limit of two lingcod, one of which is 30 to 40 inches in length and one that is 55 inches or greater in length;
- iii. immediately after landing a lingcod a nonresident angler shall record, in ink, all lingcod harvested either on the back of their sport fishing license or on a nontransferable harvest record;
- iv. a sport fishing guide or sport fishing guide crew member working on a charter vessel in the salt waters of Southeast Alaska may not retain lingcod while clients are on board the vessel.

Cora Campbell
Commissioner

By delegation to:

Bob Chadwick
Regional Management Coordinator
Division of Sport Fish

JUSTIFICATION:

This emergency order rescinds Emergency Order 1-LC-R08-11 to allow for additional harvest of sport caught lingcod in the Northern Southeast Alaska Lingcod Management Area. An in-season analysis of harvest data indicates that current trends in harvest patterns will allow for additional lingcod harvest in the Northern Southeast Alaska Lingcod Management Area. Emergency Order 1-LC-R-08-11 closed the lingcod season in Northern Southeast Alaska between July 1 and August 15. This emergency order will reopen Northern Southeast Alaska on August 1. Lingcod sport fishing bag and possession limits, nonresident annual limits, size limits, and seasons for the Yakutat and Southern Southeast Alaska Lingcod Management Areas implemented by this Emergency Order are identical to those implemented by Emergency Order 1-LC-R-08-11.

The Alaska Board of Fisheries modified sport fishing regulations for lingcod in Southeast Alaska in response to indications in the directed lingcod commercial fishery of a widespread decline in abundance. The Board established a guideline harvest level (GHL) approach for sport and commercial fisheries management of lingcod in Southeast Alaska (5 AAC 28.160.(e)). The GHL was allocated between sport and commercial users by the Board for seven fishery management areas (5 AAC 28.165.). The Board also expanded the Department's authority to modify regulations to achieve the lingcod allocation for the sport fishery (5 AAC 47.060.).

In 2011, the Department implemented regulations by emergency order including minimum length and slot limits, reduced bag and possession limits, nonresident annual limits, non-retention of fish by charter operators and crew members, and reduced seasons. These regulations have been effective at maintaining the sport fishery lingcod harvest within allocations in the management areas. These actions are being taken under the authority granted to the department by the Board of Fisheries within the Lingcod delegation of authority and provisions for management (5 AAC 47.060).

This action is necessary to ensure that sport harvests of lingcod are maximized while staying within sport lingcod allocations.

PREVIOUS EMERGENCY ORDERS AFFECTED: Emergency Order No. 1-LC-R-08-11, issued at Sitka on May 13, 2011 set the regulations for lingcod harvest in Southeast Alaska.

DISTRIBUTION:

The distribution list for this emergency order is on file at the Region 1 Office of the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Division of Sport Fish, P. O. Box 110024, Douglas, AK 99824, (907) 465-4270.